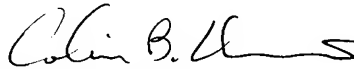


another class, it is noted that both classes would still have to be searched if the requirement is made final since independent Claims 1 and 8 are indicated as generic in the Office Action. Furthermore, since electronic searching is commonly performed, a search may be made in a large number of, or theoretically all, classes and subclasses without substantial additional effort. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the Election of Species requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a serious burden on the Examiner, whereas it would be a serious burden on Applicants to prosecute and maintain separate applications.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect a single species be withdrawn, and a full examination on the merits of Claims 1 and 3-16 be conducted.

Respectfully submitted,

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